

Rec'd March 10th
the same day

U. S. Engineer Office.

(EXPLORATIONS WEST OF THE 100th MERIDIAN,)

P. O. Lock Box No. 93.

Washington March 6, 1873.

Y.
G. B.
T.
J.

Dr G. Engelmann

Dear Sir, In the

course of travel in Arizona in 1871 my attention was attracted to the mistletoes that so abound there, and as it appears likely that I shall visit New Mexico and Arizona this year it has occurred to me that I might, if I knew the present state of knowledge in regard to them, make some observations and collections that would be useful. My own special work is in zoology, but I think that by confining myself to one family I may ^{find time to} perhaps accomplish a little as a layman in botany. Dr. Vasey of the Agricultural Bureau tells me that you have a special interest in these parasites & I am hence emboldened, though a stranger, to apply to you for information as to the questions to be solved in regard to the mistletoes. Perhaps you can answer one question that has presented itself to me



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already. The type which I find labelled in herbaria Arenthobium appears to attack to conifers exclusively, while Phoradendron I never saw on them. In like manner each genus — Juniperus, Pinus, Abies, Quercus, Populus, Prosopis, Cercocarpus — appeared to bear a distinct kind of Mistletoe, and I asked myself, in vain, whether those differing forms were really distinct species or races, or whether one or two species exhibited constant individual variation dependent on the stock upon which they engrafted themselves.

Begging the favor of a response at your convenience — I am

Yours affec

O. K. Gilbert

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GEORGE ENGELMANN PAPERS



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